

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the courtesy of the Examiner for granting a telephone interview.

The specification was objected to for failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that there was proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8 and 10-24 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 17 has been amended and claims 4, 7 and 9 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8 and 10-24 are presented for reconsideration.

Claims 1 and 8-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Tsuneoka et al. Applicants note that claim 9 was previously cancelled in the response to the Office Action of November 16, 2007. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 9 is moot due to the cancellation of this claim.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that claim 1 includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 8 and 10-16 ultimately depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 8 and 10-16 are likewise allowable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 5-6 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over the combination of Tsuneoka et al. and Mathews et al. Mathews et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Tsuneoka et al., as described above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2, 5-6 and 23 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2, 5-6 and 23 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over the combination of Tsuneoka et al. and Nakatani et al. Nakatani et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Tsuneoka et al., as described above with respect to claim 1. Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 3 is also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over the combination of Tsuneoka et al. and Nakatani et al. As described above, Tsuneoka et al. and Nakatani et al. do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1. Claims 21-22 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 21-22 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 17-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Tsuneoka et al.

Claim 17 is amended to recite features neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely:

... a step of providing **a composition of resin and an electrically conductive material ...**

... a step of mounting a partition made of said composition... (Emphasis added).

Basis for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 6, lines 12-14 and page 7, lines 22-24 of the originally filed Application.

During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the amendment to claim 17 appeared to overcome the rejection, but required further consideration. Accordingly, the amendment is being filed so that it can be considered.

Claims 18 and 20 depend from claim 17. Accordingly, claims 18 and 20 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 17.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over the combination of Tsuneoka et al. and Percival et al. Percival et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Tsuneoka et al., as described above with respect to claim 17. Claim 19 depends from claim 17. Accordingly, claim 19 is also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 17.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over the combination of Tsuneoka et al. and Mathews et al. Mathews et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Tsuneoka et al., as described above with respect to claim 17.

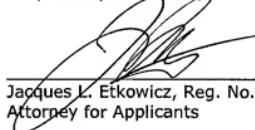
Application No.: 10/549,996
Amendment Dated: December 23, 2008
Reply to Office Action of: October 7, 2008

MAT-8744US

Claim 24 depends from claim 17. Accordingly, claim 24 is also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 17.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants submit the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

JLE/DFD/dmw/nm

Dated: December 23, 2008

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

FP_358402